

as amended be advanced.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Voice vote. Those in favor vote aye, say aye, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it. Motion carried. Mr. Clerk, we will go to LR 28 on the agenda. Senator Scofield.

CLERK: Madam President, LR 28 is on Journal page 461. It is offered by Senators Scofield, Nelson, Miller, Smith, Langford, Baack, Weihing, Elmer, Rupp, and Lamb. (Read.)

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes the member from the 49th Legislative District, Senator Sandra Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Let me give you a little background on this resolution. I was alerted to the possibility of the Essential Air Service monies being possibly eliminated by Congress this year. It does not have the level of support that I would like to see right now, at any rate, and I think this is of critical importance to particularly rural Nebraska, and particularly our economic development needs. And if you look at those communities who are currently eligible for Essential...to be an Essential Air Service designated city, we have a number of cities in Nebraska that are currently designated as such and, in fact, Nebraska ranks second in the fifty states in the number of those cities. Those cities are, two in my district, Alliance and Chadron, but we also have Columbus, Hastings, Kearney, McCook, Norfolk, Sidney, Grand Island, North Platte, and Scottsbluff. For any of you who have tried to get to any of those places from here by air know that it is not easy now. Without Essential Air Service subsidy from Washington. I think it is reasonable to expect a complete drying up of any kind of Essential Air Services to any of our rural communities. So, what I am asking you today to do is to join me in supporting this resolution so that we can coax Congress into retaining Essential Air Services to a state like Nebraska. Senator Exon is taking the lead on this issue, I believe, in Congress and I think this would simply be an appropriate statement of support coming from the Nebraska Legislature. It is very evident as we try to pursue economic development activities in rural Nebraska that air service is absolutely crucial. Some of the industries that we would like to attract simply are not interested in driving the distances necessary often to access communities across the state. Air service is